

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03303 061219Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 /095 W
-----015942 061223Z /17

P R 061150Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7734
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 03303

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, IR, SO
SUBJ: ANOTHER SPY ARRESTED

1. PRESS APRIL 6 HEADLINED ARREST EVENING MARCH 27 OF
RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL ALI AKBAR DARAKSHANI IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING CONTACT WITH A RUSSIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE IRANO-SOVIET
TRANSPORT COMPANY, IDENTIFIED AS ALMAN SHAMIROV IBRAHIMOGLI. THE
GENERAL, WHO WAS 82, APPARENTLY SUFFERED A HEART SEIZURE AT
THE MOMENT OF HIS ARREST AND DIED IN THE HOSPITAL OF CORONARY
FAILURE.

2. THE GENERAL WAS FORMERLY COMMANDER OF IRANIAN FORCES IN
AZARBAIJAN DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II, AND COLLABORATED
WITH THE SEPARATIS MOVEMENT ESTABLISHED WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE
THERE. HE WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT BY A MILITARY
COURT IN 1946 BUT PARDONED TWO YEARS LATER ON IMPERIAL ORDERS
AND RELEASED.

3. THE PRESS IDENTIFIES A FIAT CAR BEARING TEHRAN LICENSE
PLATE 32339 WITH TWO "EMPLOYEES OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY" IN
IT IN ADDITION TO IBRAHIMOGL AS THE VEHICLE WHICH MADE A
RENDEZVOUS WITH DARAKHSHANI. IBRAHIMOGLI WAS THEN SEEN
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GETTING OUT OF THE CAR AND HANDING DARAKHSHANI A PARCEL.
THE IRANIAN SECURITY AGENTS WHO HAD BEEN FOLLOWING DARAKHSHANI
CONTINUED BEHIND HIM TO HIS NEARBY HOUSE AND ARRESTED HIM.
NO FURTHER INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON THE SOVIET CITIZENS
INVOLVED.

4. COMMENT: WITH HIS RECORD, IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT

DARAKHSHANI HAD ACCESS TO MATERIALS WORTH MUCH SOVIET GOLD (APARTFROM A PENSION), EVEN BY EXERCISING THE USUAL FAMILY AND OTHER CONNECTIONS. THE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE TREATMENT SPECIFYING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT AND NAMING NAMES SO SOON AFTER THE INCIDENT SUGGESTS GOI AUTHORITIES PLACE LESS SECURITY THAN PUBLICRELATIONS VALUE IN THIS CASE. SUCH TREATMENT IS MOST LIKELY INTENDED TO REINFORCE THE OFFICIALLY INSPIRED SUGGESTIONS MAKING THE ROUNDS HERE THAT MANY IRANIAN DISSIDENTS ARE PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF INTERESTED FOREIGN POWERS, IF NOT ACTUALLY WORKING UNDER THEIR ORDERS.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, PEPR, SOPN, IR, SO, (DARAKSHANI, ALI AKBAR)
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